
SADASKI;

OR,

THE WANDERING PENITENT.



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OR,
THE WANDERING PENITENT.

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AUTHOR OF MISCELLANIES IN PROSE AND VERSE.

&c. &c. &c.

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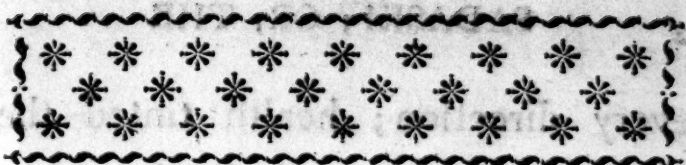
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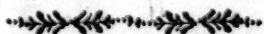
OR,

THE WANDERING PENITENT.



CHAP. I.

HOW INVALUABLE IS THAT PEACE WHICH FLOWS
FROM THE INTEGRITY OF THE HEART.



THE abode of Sadaski was situated in a beautiful valley of considerable extent. The soil watered by innumerable streams proved grateful to the labours of the husbandman; the fruits of industry smiled in

every direction; health tinted the glowing cheek; and freedom, unrestrained, gladdened the exulting heart.

Sadaski was happy in the chaste endearments of his beloved Emira, who owned no other will than that of the lord of her affections, her natural and best protector.

While yet an infant, Emira had been left an orphan. Misnah, the guardian of Sadaski, took pity on her helpless state: beneath his fostering care she grew up to loveliness and womanhood; and when

the decay of nature called him to his fathers, the eyes of the benevolent Misnah were closed by his adopted children, just united in the bonds of reciprocal affection.

The only mansion of grandeur which presented itself in this extensive and richly cultivated vale, was that of the venerable Adrasto. But now the angel of death removed him from those whose hearts had long revered his virtues: for Adrasto had been to the aged a friend and counsellor; and to the young a father and a guide.

Mithranes, the favourite of the reigning sultan, succeeded to the wealth and lands of Adrasto; and Mithranes, charmed with the picturesque appearance of the country, determined to raise a magnificent edifice on the scite of that which was, at this period, in a state of partial danger, and general decay.

In raising the splendid structure, no expence was with-held; and, ere the wane of the third moon, from the fixing its limits, and laying its foundation, its aspiring towers became the gaze and astonishment of every beholder.

Numberless artificers in every species of decorative cunning, were engaged in finishing the sumptuous apartments; and notwithstanding their immense number, the magnificence they presented to the view, was replete with variety, and calculated to impress the mind with delight and admiration at the boundless powers of human imagination.

The artless natives of the plains of former tranquility, led by curiosity, mixed with the stranger tribe, imbibed their manners, and imperceptibly lost that simplicity which

had proved for ages the bulwark of their happiness.

The palace was at length completed; amidst its enchanting boundaries, Mithranes employed much of his leisure; from its lofty towers, he viewed far beneath him the secluded abode of Sadaski; and as she was enjoying the evening breeze on the small terrace of its garden, he first beheld the lovely Emira. His notice was instantly attracted by the symmetry of her form, and the exquisite beauty of her countenance; from that moment he determined to possess an

object so desirable, and retired to his chamber to ruminate on the means.

From the ministers of his pleasures, he soon gained every requisite intelligence; and the better to effect his purpose, he sought the friendship of the unsuspecting Sadaski.

Possessed of every gift with which art invests the finished courtier, the credulous husband was doubtful which most to admire, in the exalted personage who thus deigned to seek his society, his affability, his wisdom, or his eloquence.

Among the creatures of Mithranes, no one possessed so considerable a share of his confidence as Orantes; whose advice it was, that, to celebrate the building of the palace, a grand entertainment, of several days duration, should be held there. "In the bosom of Sadaski," said the artful Orantes, "you have raised hopes and expectations before unthought of, invite this child of obscurity to the festival; and solicit him to take up his abode in a range of apartments, which may soon be prepared for his reception. Ever watchful to fulfil the wishes of the great Mithranes, his faithful Orantes has

not failed to enlarge upon the happiness which reigns throughout this region of ever varying enjoyments, and uninterrupted felicity. Little persuasion therefore need be used to induce Sadaski to become an inmate of these courts, and a servant to the will of their illustrious and munificent owner."

This proposal bore a promise too flattering to be rejected, and a suite of chambers were set a-part for the instant reception of Sadaski and his devoted Emira.

When Mithranes and Sadaski again met, the former failed not to

expatiate on the many virtues of his master, the sultan, on his own influence over him in the distribution of favors ; and concluded with promises that Sadaski should soon be appointed to a situation in which he would at once be raised to rank and affluence.

From the dawn of being, Sadaski had never wandered from the plains of innocence and of peace. Unversed in woes and wiles which beset the children of the world ; artless and unsuspecting himself, the deluded Sadaski thought sincerity was alike the inmate of every bosom. No wonder, therefore, that he was so

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soon led into the snare, thus artfully spread by the hunters of his honour and domestic happiness.



C H A P. II.

AMBITION IS SUBVERSIVE OF PEACE, AND A FOE
TO VIRTUE.



IMPLICITLY relying on promises so speedily to be realized, Sadaski was easily persuaded to quit the abode which had proved that of uninterrupted tranquility, to renounce former habits of industry, and to rush at once into destructive scenes of dissipation and false enjoyment; in which he was to resign his independance, and rest his hopes on the golden vi-

sions, raised by his supposed patron, the perfidious Mithranes.

The same infatuation pervaded the bosom of the beautiful Emira—her heart throbbed with the anticipations of rising ambition; without a sigh she turned from the mansion of peace, of that peace no more to be experienced, and removed with hopes soon to be overthrown, to fatal indulgence and magnificent ruin.

Mithranes became impatient for the completion of his purpose, now that he imagined he had secured its object; and the festival, proposed by

Orantes, immediately commenced. The disposition of the numerous entertainments which in rapid succession were to follow each other, was consigned to his management; but Mithranes was all unconcious that in Orantes he had an implacable and secret enemy; an enemy, who had long been brooding, with an indignant mind over wrongs, he had determined at a fit season, signally to avenge.

In too faithful memory Orantes had treasured up the hour of debasement: his parents were poor and wretched; to them the world had

proved a world of misery: precipitated from prosperity to ruin, by a chain of unforeseen events; in their extreme adversity they consented to the dishonour of their lovely daughter, the blooming Zelis. On the disgraceful purchase they existed for a season; during which they beheld their second child, the less amiable Orantes, become a servile dependant on the author of his sisters ruin.

Submission on the part of the maiden was to be attributed to motives of filial affection; and hard necessity impelled the parents to compliance—but Zelis fell a victim to

recollections which principles of innate honor, failed not to raise in a mind formed for virtue; to recollections which filled her soul with anguish, and which hurried her to an early tomb.

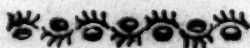
The authors of her being and her destiny did not long survive the martyr to their poverty; — but Orantes lived to dissimulation and revenge.

Already had he commenced his plan of retribution; already had he gained the private ear of the sultan, to whom he had represented Mi-

thranes as a monster of ingratitude, in presuming to enslave a beauty, fit only for the embraces of the sovereign of the east.

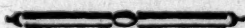
In his unguarded moments, the favourite had not unfrequently abused the confidence reposed in him by his sultan; who was no stranger to many instances of his baseness and ingratitude. The work of Orantes was therefore half performed; and he readily procured his royal master to doom Mithranes to a speedy death. But Mithranes was to fall by secret means; since, though but lately raised to power, he had many friends, whose

resentment the sultan did not wish to draw upon him; at a moment when public alarm and jealousy ran high, and when general discontent threatened even the safety of his throne!



CHAP. III.

VENGEANCE BELONGS ONLY TO ALLA! THE MAN
OF TRUE RELIGION HAS BUT ONE TRUST, AND
SUBMITS HIS CAUSE TO THE POWER WHO CAN-
NOT ERR.



ON the third evening, from the commencement of the celebration, Orantes proposed, to the unsuspecting Mithranes, a night-revelry in the palace-grove ; where, in separate pavilions, parties were to form ; from one of which, raised in a situation favourable to the design of the con-

ductor of the entertainments ; Emira (such was the proposal of Orantes) was to be for ever conveyed from her devoted Sadaski ; who, with life, was to pay the forfeit of credulity,

With secret triumph Mithranes listened to the counsel of the traitor Orantes. In imagination Emira was already in his power—but the sanguinary means by which he was to attain his wishes created some tumult, in a bosom even hitherto hardened by successful guilt, and ever alive to its most horrid instigations.

The appointed night of violence

and assassination was on its advance; and Mithranes started from his couch, where he had vainly endeavoured to find repose. The daring spirit, and the yet unappalled heart, appeared to give way at the moment in whose dreadful work their unshrinking energy was most required.

In his dream he had clasped the lovely, struggling Emira, who strengthened by innate virtue and conscious dignity, bursts from his rude embraces.—The voice of his sultan echoes throughout the vaulted chambers.—He is encircled by his guards,

and instantly commanded to the dungeons of torture, and of death.

The visions of his imperfect slumber, convey to his disturbed mind prophetic bodings; his shuddering heart is filled with horrors, allied only to guilt; and he stands appalled and trembling amidst the fears which an evil conscience had created; and which it is not in the pomp of power, and all the glittering appendages of its most exalted stations, to dissipate or to soften.

Unable to account for the dismay which shakes his trembling frame,

he quits his chamber, and repairs to the open courts; his perturbation subsides not; he is on the point of renouncing his purpose;—he meets the injured Sadaski!!! The day was on its close, and returning morn was to behold Emira's husband, a victim to the dagger's point.

In vain did Mithranes attempt to smother his feelings—his agitation was but too visible to the generous Sadaski, who, alarmed for the health of his supposed patron, supports the tottering steps of Mithranes, as he again returns toward the palace. His mind a little calmed, Sadaski

advises the air of the garden—passing the pavilion, raised for the reception of Emira, his mental tumults return with redoubled force. Orantes, who is giving directions to the artizans employed, perceives his master's embarrassment, and at no loss to divine its cause, advances towards him, and advises Mithranes again to seek his chamber, and there invite that repose, which he had already willed should return to him no more.

Alas! Mithranes, the votaries of guilt cannot at all times resist the searching power of inflexible conscience. Exalted wretch! its awful

whisperings assailed thy heart at a moment when they *would* be heard; and told thee that the enemies of Alla were never to be happy; that to mortal existence, at the best, precarious and eventful, all their imperfect pleasures were confined; and that, with its close, their fondest schemes, their most voluptuous enjoyments, must also terminate.

Mithranes was at length composed enough to consider within himself on the most likely means of deceiving his sultan; should the exquisite beauty of Emira, ever come to his knowledge; and he should, from thence

be led to demand her presence to grace his seraglio.—And here, again, oh Mithranes, wert thou induced to feel that fear and guilt, from the birth of time, were linked in inseparable chains, which with time only, can ever be dissolved.

From the close of day to the hour of midnight, the pavilions were set apart for the amusements of the women; while the chambers of the palace echoed to the shouts of the other sex, whose senses were involved in excess and inebriation.

In one of these voluptuous circles

Sadaski was placed; and as an attendant was advancing towards him with the golden goblet, Orantes, who was placed at his right hand arose, saying, "Taste not, Sadaski, of the prepared draught; its contents are deadly, and the moment is important. I hasten to the palace-grove; attend me thither; venture no question in this assembly; but on your life, and all that is dear to it, fail not to follow me."

Arrived at the grove, Orantes resumed, "To me you owe the preservation of your life; the contents of the goblet were meant for your de-

struction. But for my prevention, this night would have closed with Sadaski's death, and Emira's dishonour. I now lead you to a scene, which to behold, will require all your fortitude. For know, it will display the perfidy of Mithranes! "The perfidy of Mithranes!" reiterated the astonished Sadaski. "(Nay start not, my friend," continued Orantes, "Mithranes is a monster! I owe him vengeance! I have treasured up the dread amount; and this night; yes, Sadaski, this night of eventful horror, cancels the debt for ever."

Orantes proceeded:

“We are now among the pavilions; that on your right, erected at some distance from the rest, is prepared for Emira. A secret path leads from it to a subterraneous chamber, where at a convenient station, I shall place Sadaski, from whence he may rush to his revenge.”

Sadaski stood fixed in amazement at the petrifying speech of his mysterious companion. “Your looks,” continued Orantes, “seem to demand my motive for acting as I have done; and I hesitate not to avow it!” Orantes then gave a brief history of

his sister, the unfortunate **Zelis**; the while Sadaski listened with mingled sensations of horror and surprize.

When the relation was ended, Sadaski, with a deep drawn sigh, declared they were engaged in a mutual cause.

They now entered the pavilion; and Sadaski in silence followed his guide, through a private path that led from it. In an instant he was involved in total darkness; but Orantes guided his hand to a cord, of which he cautioned him to retain his hold; proceeding through dark and intricate

windings, they came at length to a broad flight of steps, where lamps, placed at a certain intervals, served to shew the immensity of their depth. Their gloomy and terrific aspect filled the mind of Sadaski with momentary horror, and made him doubt if they were the work of mortal hand.

Sadaski and his companion were some time in descending; and Orantes repeated his caution respecting the cord which the husband of Emira had not quitted. At length they arrived at the massive doors which opened upon a most elaborate and sumptuous display of human ingenuity.

The scene which burst upon the sight of Sadaski, presented an elegant saloon, and his sense of hearing was held captive for a space, by strains of harmony which seemed to issue from its walls. Alas! his delirium was but of short duration; for now he demands of Orantes, "for what dreadful end am I led hither?" Orantes, startled at his energy, entreated him to be silent, as he valued his honor, and as he wished to wreak his vengeance on the man by whom it had been insulted.

The saloon and the several chambers leading to it, were, with infinite toil and difficulty to the workmen,

hewn out of the solid rock. The formation and magnitude of the numerous arches, and the height and beauty of the splendid columns, inspired the beholder with admiration; and depressed and bewildered as he was, even Sadaski could not view with indifference the grotesque and fascinating scenery with which he found himself surrounded.

This secluded abode, so well adapted for the purposes of luxury and licentiousness, had employed an host of needy wretches, who, with incessant toil had just completed a little world of buried wonders. During the course

of their labours they had been enjoined secrecy; and methods had been adopted to drown the sound of the several instruments employed in the stupendous undertaking. The entrance to this recess was contrived with so much art, as to render its discovery impossible, except by those already made acquainted with the ingenious clue which led to it.

Here the abandoned Mithranes, indulged in every excess that riches and power could procure, or luxury, the most unbounded, could demand. Here the altars of lust were raised by its votaries; here, in all their unhallowed, and

detestable amplitude, its infernal rites were held; and here, torn from the light of Heaven, and removed beyond the hope of mortal rescue; it triumphed over the hapless objects of its frequent sacrifices.

Orantes, who had left Sadaski with an earnest charge not to quit his situation, now returned to him, saying, "You will not have long to wait, before you'll have a full revenge. I perceive your eye is engaged in the contemplation of the illuminated chamber in the distance. There, Sadaski, there you will behold the perpetrator of every wrong, and the foe

to every virtue. Be your own avenger! and Orantes can ask no more."

By a narrow and secret passage between the walls, Sadaski and Orantes soon gained the principal chamber, which was illuminated by lamps of the most elegant construction. Their flames were fed with costly perfumes, composed of the richest odours of the east. The pillars were exquisitely turned, and supported a roof of the most polished workmanship and dazzling effect; the throne in the centre of this extensive apartment, the splendid gallery, the sofas in the recesses; in short, every thing that met the admi-

ring eye, presented a display, far, very far exceeding in magnificence the proudest in the palace of the Sultan.

Sadaski took his concealed stand near the throne, where his guide left him, saying, "I must now join the train of Mithranes, and officiate in his last honours! But Sadaski, before we part, look to your girdle. It sustains the dagger, which you are not to consider as a glittering bauble at the important moment, now on its advance. Be firm, and remember, that in searching the heart of Mithranes, you revenge our mutual wrongs; secure the favour of thy sultan; and

exult in the death of a tyrant, who by his misdeeds in the service of his noble master, has tarnished the lustre of his diadem.

Sadaski had not remained long in the station assigned him by Orantes, before the sound of music announced the coming of Mithranes. The instrumental and choral band advanced in pairs, and formed a circle round the throne. These were succeeded by a train of beautiful children, bearing vases of silver and of gold, filled with flowers of the rarest growth, and of the richest fragrance. At every measured pause, the playful train strewed

the ground with a portion taken, with graceful and studied movements, from their embrosial stores.

Advancing in the distance, theaching sight of Sadaski at length discovered its long sought object, preceded by a group of female dancers, whose light, transparent and flowing robes displayed the step of grace, and the form of symmetry, to the greatest advantage.

As that object approached still nearer and nearer, with every step, the agitations of Sadaski's irritated mind increased; he becomes convulsed with

stifled rage and indignation! But, all gracious Alla! Is it not enough, the sight of Mithranes! Is not the view of a form so loathed, and so hateful, as such a moment must render it, of itself sufficient to nerve his arm, and raise it to the completion of its determined purpose? No! he must behold still more: to drive him to desperation; to plunge him in the abyss of misery; he must behold Emira, his once adored Emira, the richest gift of heaven, the wife of his bosom; led with looks, expressive of answering fondness and desire, by her licentious paramour, to the detested throne!

“ God of my life !” exclaims the unhappy man, “ and is EMIRA false!!! The guilty pair ascend the steps : at intervals, dulcet strains, calculated to inspire sensations, allied to illicit joy, and descriptive of unhallowed and unrestrained passion, seem as if blended and floating with the tinted and curling vapours, arising from the incense which diffused its sweets in every direction. When seated, Mithranes and his partner indulge in mutual embraces: as the attendants retire to a distance, those endearments are less and less restricted: and now, the vivid flames of the hundred lamps are sprinkled with a scented liquid, they

yield to its powerful influence; their extreme radiance mellows into a faint twilight; the while, by insensible degrees, the music dies away, and the curtains of the throne descend from its sumptuous and lofty canopy.

Sadaski, wild with rage, and fully roused to vengeance, at this moment rushed from his place of concealment, and plunged his scymiter in the bosom of his enemy! But Sadaski, wanting the power to repeat the blow, shuddered at his own deed, and left Emira, on whom he could not wreak further vengeance, shrieking with anguish and with terror.

The wailings of Emira were incessant, as she beheld Mithranes writhing beneath the agony of his wound. The attendants crowded about the throne; and, it was not 'till Sadaski had escaped beyond the confines of the fatal labyrinth, that Emira could utter, "Mithranes has fallen beneath the hand of a secret assassin!"

Impressed with horror, and determined to shun even the sight of the sanguinary Orantes, Sadaski hastened towards the palace.

Entering the chamber, where he last embraced the fair Emira, as he

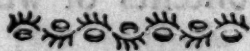
beheld her with admiring eyes, attired in the graceful and costly robe of eastern magnificence, he imagines he again views her form reflected in the mirror, before which he remains absorbed in fearful and tormenting recollection.

His distracted and dismayed mind, pictures the late valued object of his tenderest affection, with animated form and countenance, as pointing to the murderer of Mithranes. Aversion and reproof are pictured on her contracted brow; and now he hears the convulsive shriek repeated, which resounded throughout the vaulted recess, where, at the call of vengeance, the

blow was inflicted on the author of his affliction and disgrace.

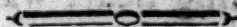
Irresolute, depressed, and abandoned by every hope, the bewildered and lost Sadaski opened a cabinet, and from thence selected from its stores a casket, the contents of which were to preserve him from poverty or dependance, in whatever distant spot he might be induced to hide his head; and where, for the remnant of wretched life, he might brood over those misfortunes, which in the anguish of his soul, he imagined could end only with existence; and which a silent and never

erring monitor, represented as the melancholy proofs of vanity and ambition.



CHAP. IV.

HUMANITY IS DOOMED TO SUFFERINGS—THO' EVILS SURROUND THEE, AND SORROWS ACCUMULATE, STILL TURN FROM THE INSIDIOUS AND BANEFUL WHISPERINGS OF DESPAIR.— THEY ARE FRAUGHT WITH EVIL, AND LEAD EVENTUALLY TO SURE PERDITION.



WITH this resource, the dejected unfortunate, took his instant departure from scenes of pomp and luxury. In the gloom of a desponding mind, he bade adieu to every comfort, and considered himself as destined to perpetual misery.

As he passed his native abode of peace and innocence, no more to return, and which he had so fatally exchanged for that of splendid ruin, his anguish became intolerable.

“Here,” he sighed forth, “here I knew no guilt! in this calm retreat, my now bleeding heart was all unconscious of a pang! wretched, wretched Sadaski! why didst thou ever cast a look towards those lofty towers? Why didst thou ever enter the courts, where perfidy unrestrained, performs its deadly act, and where thou hast become, gracious Alla! do I live to utter the dreadful name! where thou hast thyself become—a dark ASSASSIN!!!

“ Oh! Orantes! call you *this* REVENGE? Alas, if it is *indeed* REVENGE, it belongs to the shade of Mithranes; for Sadaski, for ever doomed to the extreme of mortal torture, has become a victim to his own guilt; and has drawn down on his devoted head, the vengeance intended for another.”

With a mind fraught with these torturing reflections, for many a painful day Sadaski wandered, unknowing whither, and in search of some solitude which might accord with the mournful tenor of a ruined mind.

After enduring much fatigue, he

came at length to a wilderness which appeared gloomy, terrific, and extensive.

Winding among the ancient and lofty trees, by whose umbrageous and spreading branches, it was o'er-canopied; he beheld rolling in its deep and fearful bed, a dark and troubled stream, from whence issued sulphureous and deadly vapours; while the impending foliage on which they settled, surcharged with its sickening weight, again returned them, to the unwholesome source from whence they sprung.

Advancing further into the wilderness, Sadaski was seized with a sudden tremor. He looked fearfully around, and beheld on every side a scene which impressed him with horror and dismay.

Under the most afflictive and terrifying sensations, which every object in his view tended still to heighten, the hopeless wanderer whispered to himself, "Where have my miseries led me? Suffer me, Supreme Disposer of my fate, to trace back the path into which I have entered! Protecting Alla, look down from thy eternal heaven, and support the sinking

spirits of thy creature, in this region of horrors!

The prayer of Sadaski was sent forth in vain; and the power to whom his petition was offered up, left him, for a season, to the nameless torments of a wounded spirit.

The more he endeavoured to explore an outlet, the more he became involved amidst the secret depths and increasing gloom of the desert.

At every turn his ears were assailed with deep and hollow groans; the pauses between which were filled

up with shrieks, as if proceeding from some one labouring under excruciating torture. To increase his terror, he hears, or thinks he hears, in hollow and awful tones, the name of Emira! and from the ponderous and mishapen trunks of trees, which had for ages relinquished their leafy honours, and which opposed to those which time had spared in its desolating course, formed a solemn contrast; voices issue, and pronounce the unvarying and appalling sentence—
“Behold the murderer, Sadaski; deserted by his God!

To heighten his despair, and still

more to appal his trembling heart, in every frequent glade, the pallid form of Mithranes flits across his path, and points to the crimsoned wound.

The groans and shrieks now become incessant; and Sadaski is near falling to the earth, but he is prevented by some invisible power.—In fearful alarm he exclaims, “What do I hear?—What do I behold?” A voice rejoins, “You behold the spirit of him your murderous hand bereft of life.—You hear the groans of MITHRANES, and the shrieks of EMIRA.”

The deep-toned thunder now seems as if bursting over his devoted head!—The forked lightning runs along the ground, and in its passage disturbs the pestiferous and crawling inmates of the discoloured, damp, and clotted grass; and who raised a mingled and undescribed death-sound as they writhe, blasted and expiring beneath its mortal influence.

The storm having exhausted itself, Sadaski continued his painful way along the banks of the stream, which became, at every step, more and more rugged. No other path presented

itself of more secure footing; and in many places the earth sunk beneath his weight, and threatened instant destruction.

In places where the stream was scarcely seen to move in its deep and furrowed channel, and where the unequal bank was nearly hid by the frequent weed, an awful silence increased the dread of the bewildered and wretched Sadaski.

At every step he disturbed the loathsome reptile which infested the entangled verdure they had poisoned: while the insidious adder, and the

wily serpent, shot their venom on his head, as they darted from the overhanging branches, which darkened, and rendered still more terrible, the yawning chasm frowning beneath their tainted and discoloured foliage.

At length the precipice, on either side, became less tremendous. His path was no longer beset with objects of the menacing description just related; the stream flowed gently onward; and its banks gradually sloping to the water's edge, were decorated with the most enchanting beauties of ever varying and prolific nature.

The scenery, which now presented itself to the eye of the almost exhausted traveller, was calculated to impress the mind with mournful ideas. It had its full effect on that of Sadaski; and his dejection increased as he pondered on the blessings he had for ever renounced, and the mental torment he had so wilfully ensured.

With folded arms, and with looks bent on the earth, the unfortunate Sadaski pursued the course of the water, till he arrived at a building of considerable extent, but in a state of ruin. Around its delapsd walls the stream

flowed clear, yet deep; and here, its mazy windings were brought to a termination.

Every part of this immense structure presented an air of melancholy grandeur; while the height and vastness of its numerous towers, raised at different angles of the moss-covered walls, increased its terrific and threatening aspect.

Sadaski, struck with an inward and nameless awe, surveyed the venerable edifice.

The principal entrance was through

a lofty and once magnificent arch, which exhibited every mark of extreme decay; while each ponderous stone, which displayed on its crumbling surface the curious remains of the artist's skill, seemed as if bound together by entwining weeds. The filmy leafage of these wild offsprings of nature, was intermingled with millions of wild flowers, which in pendent luxuriance, waved and glittered to the golden beams of a descending sun.

Having passed the arch, Sadaski found himself in a spacious court: beneath its broken pavement, the dead-

ly scolopendra, and other noisome and infectious reptiles, had formed their secret beds. To these asylums they retreated as he advanced; and from thence proclaimed, by united hissings, their fears of, and their antipathy toward, the human race.

Discovering a narrow passage, at the remotest corner of the ravaged space, Sadaski gained it; but not without difficulty, and some degree of danger: for there, amidst a buried mass of broken columns, numbers of mishapen monsters lay half concealed, and looking defiance, as with eyes glistening with rage, and tongues

poison - charged, they raised their heads ; intent to dart upon him, should he have the temerity to offer them an injury.

Entering the passage, and after a few paces, he came upon a descent, so abrupt and rugged, as to make him pause, doubtful if to proceed, or return to the court. But while thus hesitating, he felt himself impelled forward with alarming rapidity. Against its craggy sides his already sinking frame was severely lacerated ; and, for several minutes, the affrighted adventurer was hurried from depth to depth, till bruised, and bereft of

intellect or motion, he was precipitated into a cavern, where he lay till returning sense enabled him to behold and shudder at the dreary situation into which he was plunged; from whence there appeared no means of deliverance, and where he lay agonized by many a wound, and weltering in the crimson streams which flowed from them.

A doubtful light gleamed across the cavern, which proceeded from a livid flame issuing from a taper, self-suspended in the centre.

A deep and portentous silence in-

creased the horror, which seized upon the depressed object of Alla's displeasure. But that silence was not of long duration; presently frightful and discordant howlings are heard at a distance; and looking towards the mysterious taper, Sadaski beheld a hand, pale, and bloody, which held in its grasp, a dagger stained with gore. The hand at length opened; the instrument of death dropped from it; the while a voice, slow, and solemn, pronounced—"The miseries prepared for Sadaski, are severe and manifold.—The means to avoid them, lay within his reach; strike, and be at peace!"

Sadaski reached forth his hand to seize upon the weapon; when a sudden check thrilled his bosom, and another voice exclaimed, "FOR-BEAR!!!"

The dagger still lay before him; but as the vibration, occasioned by the second voice, died away, the hand which had dropped it, instantly disappeared.

Again all is silent! The eyes of Sadaski, still remain fixed on the dagger: once more he extends his hand towards it, when to his astonishment, it glides away to a distance; and Sa-

daski is too much alarmed, and too weak, to follow its mysterious movements.

An inward fire now torments and searches his labouring bosom; a sensation produced by the agony of his festering wounds; parched, and gasping with thirst, his brain becomes wild, and he calls aloud on death to relieve him. A stupor succeeds, from which he is awakened by deep and lengthened sighs. And now scalding drops of vapour, settle on his heated forehead, his thirst increases even to torture, when lo! two spectres, of pitious and paled aspect, stand

before him ; and, with persuasive gestures, by turns, proffering the dagger of death ; and the bowl of oblivion. And by turns, pronouncing. " This will irradiate thy rooted grief : this will allay thy consummate thirst."

Sadaski, irresolute and wavering, hesitates in his choice, and while in this state of suspense, the ministers of darkness disappear, leaving behind them the means of self-destruction.

His attention is now roused by strains, slow, solemn, and pathetic. To their dirge-like melody, a sable

curtain descending, presents, on its velvet surface, in crimson, and glowing characters, the following inscription:

When thou can'st seize the dagger, drench the bowl;
Why pine beneath the anguish of the soul?
Mithranes calls, from dark oblivion's shore;
Award him, **BLOOD FOR BLOOD**, he asks no more.

The inscription filled the mind of Sadaski with dismay and astonishment! And while he was meditating on the sentence, **BLOOD FOR BLOOD**, it was pronounced in a voice which echoed throughout the cavern, and which all its terrific recesses again returned.

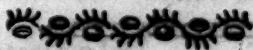
The bed of the cavern now rocks beneath him. A hollow wind disturbs and nearly extinguishes the light of the taper, suddenly, blue flames issue from the ground, and form a circle; in the centre of which, a malignant spirit, of a horrid form and aspect, appears before Sadaski,

With menacing look and gesture he stalked around the fearful confine; and waved over its tormented inmate his sulphur-charged torch: then, snatching at the scymiter, he raised his arm, as if to plunge it into the heart of Sadaski, who prepared his bosom for the welcome blow.

With looks expressive of dismay, the spirit of darkness surveyed his, apparently, devoted and willing victim, and with an infernal, and long drawn yel, sought the abodes from whence he came!

After a short pause, a light and silvery cloud incloses Sadaski with its radiance: it acts as a balm upon his wounds: he is no longer tormented by fever and by thirst; and he sinks to repose to the whisperings of a mild and enchanting voice, which thus conveys its consoling lesson: "The gift of Alla, can only be cast away by the hand of Sadaski.—

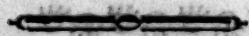
Learn, child of error, that thy afflictions are the award of eternal justice; bend therefore to decrees, beyond thy weak power to soften or to alter, and one day thy miseries will terminate.



SLEEP had for some time been a stranger to Belshazzar; but he could exceed his emotions, waking from his repose, he found himself in the midst of an enchanting grove, and reclining on a bed of flowers. The winged tenants of the scene were

CHAP. V.

THAN DESPAIR, NO ENEMY MORE SUBTLE, THE
SOFT IMPRESSIONS OF MELANCHOLY ARE
NOT LESS TO BE AVOIDED, THAN ARE THE
SUDDEN BURSTS OF HOPELESS AGONY OF UN-
GOVERNABLE PASSION.



SLEEP had for some time been a stranger to Sadaski; but what could exceed his emotions, when, awaking from his repose, he found himself in the midst of an enchanting grove, and reclining on a bed of flowers. The winged tenants of the scene were

sporting from branch to branch, and warbling, with enchanting melody, the song of nature.

Sadaski arose greatly refreshed; what had passed in the cavern seemed but as a dream; his wounds were insensibly healed; but his mind was still under the influence of oppressive melancholy.

Quitting the grove, he entered upon an open lawn, and proceeding to a temple, situated on a rising ground, seated himself within it; and from its several doors surveyed

the contrasted views they presented to the admiring eye.

Sadaski passed some time in the temple, before he recollected he had entered its porch from an extensive lawn; and was at a loss to account for the prospect around him, being totally different from that he had so lately beheld. In vain he walked forth from the different openings; the wide spread and enamelled green was to be seen no more; and he beheld, with increasing amazement, that every object from without was continually changing.

The sun, which had hitherto shone forth in its most effulgent radiance, became obscured by a green mist, which diffused its pensive colouring as far as the eye could reach.—Airborne sounds, mournful, but melodious, float around the relapsing Sasaki; again his bosom sighs over the irremediable past; again painful ideas shoot across his wavering mind; and again he becomes, bewildered, lost, and wretched!

In this state, the suffering wretch fell prostrate on the ground; from whence he arose not 'till awakened by the trembling earth, and the deep-

toned thunder. The alarming hurricane, sudden and impetuous, shook the temple to its basis. For a considerable space of time, and with fury unabated, the elemental strife continued with increasing terrors:—pitchy darkness overspread the face of nature—the desolating wind, forced from their earthy beds, the deep-rooted tenants of the shade; and from the air to which they were hurled, they were again hurried, in dreadful clamour and confusion, to the ground.

These horrors were succeeded by a noise resembling that of falling

buildings; the temple sunk with a tremendous crash; while Sadaski, still in its porch, involved amidst its ruins, and unable to escape, fell with them, resigned to his fate, and waiting the threatened dissolution!

With the fall of the temple the storm instantly ceased, and Sadaski, harrassed, and almost regardless of futurity, sought, among its remains, that repose, which even in a waste so dreary, and so comfortless, was not denied to him.

But his slumbers, thus sought, were broken and unquiet;—long 'ere

returning light; he was awakened by the moaning winds; mixed with their sullen sounds, he listens to a soft, plaintive, and persuasive voice, which utters—"The visions of joy will not endure! for the unhappy nature wears no smile:—in the scale of being Sadaski is as nothing! his *sorrows* are more important than *himself*: no human tie binds him to life; his remnant of days are abandoned by every hope; and, Sadaski can never, *never* pass beyond the confines of Despair!—Trust not to ærial nothings. Where, Sadaski, where are the objects which so lately charmed thine eyes? Where are the vocal groves; the sun of delusion; and

the radiant temple?—Alas! from thy sight, deceived, guilty, and undone man, they are removed for ever!”

Sadaski listened to sentences, addressed to him in a voice so peculiarly mild and sympathetic, but unable to discover the object from whence they came, he rejoined—“Whoever thou art, or in whatever form, appear.—Console the hapless wretch, whose mental torment becomes intolerable! The sight of any object would render this scene of desolation less forlorn. Sadaski dreads the return of morning light. It will gleam, pitying, and gentle spirit, over the wide spread ruin, where

he is doomed to remain, till death shall release him from unutterable anguish.

Thus spake Sadaski: but in vain he listened for a reply; sleep came not again to steal him from himself; and at length, the dreaded return of morning-light displayed, as he feared,—
‘The wide spread ruin.

Sadaski arose, and took his way along a range of mouldering arches; on either side he beheld the stately remains of monuments apparently raised to perpetuate the memory of the once illustrious on earth; while the

statues which remained entire, as he passed them, bowed the head crowned with imaged honours, and pointed to the waste of buried art, scattered around their tottering pedestals.

After intently gazing on the affecting scene, he arrived at the mouldering arch, through which he had proceeded to the terrific descent to the cavern of shadows. The view of the arch, at a moment so unexpected, created some surprise; but he felt no disposition, again to visit the court to which it gave entrance, or the passage which led to horrors so recently experienced; and the recollection of which

made him tremble with apprehension.

With hurried step, he proceeded along the windings of the stream to where it encircled a tower, fronted by a gateway, which from its height and magnitude, appeared to have been the principal entrance to this wide expanse of building.

Shaded by the foliage of a lofty cedar, and seated on a bank which overhung the liquid depth, Sadaski beheld an old man, who, on his approach, raised his palsied head, and displayed a countenance, disgusting,

pale, and withered!—The robe which covered his shivering frame, was of a sable hue, and tinged with streaks of crimson.—With a penetrating glance he surveyed Sadaski, and welcomed him to the asylum of those who long for eternal peace.

With a voice that trembled as it uttered, the tottering and emaciated wretch, enjoining the mute attention of his visitor, thus addressed him:

“Many, oh my son, have wandered to this sequestered pile, and found, amidst its still retreats, a hiding place from the numberless ills which have

pursued them throughout the haunts of men;—and few, very few, have returned from it to a world of wrong and violence. Among its silent, and mournful chambers, and around its solitary courts, the truly wretched pass a season of uninterrupted sorrow, which every corresponding object tends to increase.—Enter its quiet precincts, and there, lost Sadaski, ruminate, deeply ruminate, on the folly of supporting a life of inquietude, when you have only to lave in the stream of forgetfulness, wherein every woe finds a termination.—In the wilderness of perplexity, it takes its rise, and its meanderings, which you have so lately passed, cease

not till they have encircled the mansion of DESPAIR.

“ To that mansion, the wretched Sadaski has been led by sorrow, unallied to hope; which (so is it decreed by fate) will dawn no more on his benighted mind.

“ Within the desolate chambers which surround yon solitaty court, melancholy musing meets no interruption. Day and night, the sympathizing and moaning winds, have free range through the fissures of times ruin; the while with threatening aspect, the glaring phantom rushes on the eye of remorse,

and points to the assassins wound! or appears, in milder form, to the lover, or the parent, as they become a prey to anguish, unconscious of a pause, and which every passing day renders more, and more intolerable.

“ But no mortal eye, man of many miseries, beholds them there! There, Sadaski, there, they are removed from the un pitying multitude. They are far away from the false friend; or the foe, who might rejoice over the wreck of their happiness. They witness not ‘ the altered eye of hard unkindness:’ and, if they sink to silence, and no one to lament their memory, are they

not, likewise, exempt from the voice of exultation, which might be raised over their untimely end?"

Sadaski entered the building, and ascending by broken steps of black marble; he pursued his hazardous way, till he arrived at a long range of apartments, on every side of which were displayed those instruments which the wretched fly to, when life becomes a burthen, and which he intently surveyed 'till the darkness of night shut them from his gaze.

The mind and frame, equally exhausted, Sadaski flung himself upon

the ground, and, thus prostrate, sunk into a state of insensibility.

He had not long remained in this state, before he was roused by a sudden explosion, succeeded by a groan, which appeared to issue from the adjoining chamber. With faltering step he arose to succour the unfortunate.

The flame of an expiring lamp cast across a glimmering light the room from whence the alarm proceeded; but Sadaski could discover no object. Advancing towards the lamp, the floor, decayed, and yielding to his steps, gave way, and he was on the point of falling

with the ruin he had occasioned, into a profound and yawning gulph, from whose terrific depths issued a confused din, as if occasioned by a rushing cataract, the sound of whose foaming torrent, was blended with that of pent up winds, to which a free passage seemed denied, but which they were warring, with united and stubborn fury, to obtain.

Again he closed his weary eyes, but his dreams presented sad visions of affright.—Now he beholds in afflictive vision, the victim of man's perfidy, plant the knife in the innocent breast of the unoffending infant, and then, to

quiet, in one awful moment, conscience and shame together; plunge it, still warm and crimsoned, into her own.—

And now, the unprincipled gamester, ruined in fortune, and equally so in mind, fills the cup to the brim, and swallows the deadly draught in horrid and mistaken triumph.—The parent, wrung with heart-rending anguish, unable to survive the dishonour of an ungrateful, and once loved child, next appears, suspended by the fatal cord.

—Other objects, equally distressing, disturb his broken and convulsed slumbers; nor did Sadaski rise from them, 'till light returned, and every torturing picture of human misery

had passed in dreadful review before him.

Drooping, and dejected, he at length descended from the dreary, and enchanted chambers, and placed himself by the side of the stream:—his ear, assailed by no sound, his eye, visited by no living object. Painful remembrance harrows up his soul, and he sinks beneath the accumulated and oppressive load of insufferable anguish.

While pondering over the still, and transparent water, sounds of mournful, but exquisite sweetness, seemed to pro-

ceed from the chamber in which he had passed the night. After a symphony, which had held attention captive, the bosom of Sadaski was still more softened on hearing the following strain, delivered in a tone of more than mortal melody :

Far from the thorny road of worldly strife,
Far from the thousand ills of active life ;
Indulge in melancholy's green alcoves,
Secluded deep within her cypress groves :
There, palid victim of a secret woe,
There, dark and deep, oblivion's waters flow :
If, on its gloomy banks, perchance despair,
Should meet thee, pitied child of wasting care,
Should wander with thee, where its waters lave
The bed of peace, the wretches only grave :
Resolv'd, its sedgy, silent depths explore,
Where human ill shall rend the heart no more.

The voice ceas'd to articulate.—

The luxuriant and curving branches,

beneath whose shade reclined the desponding lord of Emira, were not stirred, even by a zephyr's breath. The reflection of the rugged and dark surface of the tower appeared in the stream; the motion of which was not perceptible at this moment of silence and repose; and while, with intent survey, Sadaski contemplated the impending shadow of the building, a sudden illumination with which it became overspread, induced him, instantly, to turn to the object itself; where he beheld, in the circular gallery, a female form of transcendent beauty. — So light was the step of the enchanting object, that it sounded not on the ear;

while its form, flexile and finished, spoke it of more than mortal mould.

Sadaski's attention became rivetted to the gallery. As he gazed, his mind seemed again relieved of its weight of sorrow; he insensibly quitted the stream into which he had so lately been tempted to plunge;—the gloom which pervaded the scenery around him, once more dissipated, and the object of his adoration appeared before him, and thus addressed her astonished hearer.

“When a life of innocence and of peace was sweetened by industry;

when thy humble board furnished no more than health required; then, child of error, and of guilt, then wert thou happy!—It was permitted, that trials should surround thee, and the great spirit of evil exulted in the fall of a child of virtue.

“The glare of false consequence, and the delusions of unreal enjoyment, bewildered thy imagination, perverted thy principles, and meanly hast thou yielded to dependance. Those efforts which braced thy frame with health, and gave self-approbation to thy mind, thou hast renounced unworthily.—But Alla, ever watchful

over his creatures, and by whose mercy I am appointed thy protecting genius, will not permit thy destruction.

“The past is too well known.—The future I dare not unfold.—Fate will turn over its own leaves, and Sadaski has still much to learn, and much to suffer.”

Sadaski, who had fallen prostrate on the earth while the genius was speaking now raised his head, but the heavenly messenger of reproof and comfort was to be seen no more.

Convinced and grateful, Sadaski resolved to place his confidence in Alla; to return to his native home; and throw himself on the mercy of his sultan.

At that moment, Emira! his once beloved, his once innocent Emira! rushed upon memory, "and shall I," he exclaimed, "shall I turn again to my native home, where every object will bring back to tortured imagination, the dear image of her, too faithfully remembered! of her, for whom to lament, is dishonour! of her too, who *must* be for ever forgotten!"

After a pause, he reiterated, "To my native home! would that in tracing back my painful way, I could behold Emira, once mine, a lifeless object in my path! But she lives; Emira lives, to load with curses, the hand that doomed to death the treacherous Mithranes!—to execrate the heart that prompted to the deed.

Gracious Alla!—Shall I exist, to behold the once adored of my soul, triumph over the devoted Sadaski;—to behold her in splendid infamy!—Wretch that I am—never to my native home can I again return, and there, a witness to my own degra-

dition, exist—neglected, scorned, and wretched!”

In a paroxysm of rage and grief, forgetful of his recent lesson, and determined to rush from every human affliction, he flew to the border of the stream.

Instantly the element o’er which he pondered, appeared in flames—the earth became convulsed—fearful and varied noises resounded throughout the building, which was now rent by the livid lightning, and now rocked by the pealing thunder. With a terrible crash, at length it was hurled from its

volcanic foundation, while the dismayed Sadaski, rapidly plunged into the yawning chasm of the opening earth, could only ejaculate, before insensibility had benumbed every vital principle, "Alla, have mercy on me!"



CHAP. VI.

NOR PLACE, NOR POWER, CAN LURE GENUINE HAPPINESS TO THE HOME IT OWNS NOT.—IT IS AN INMATE OF THE MIND—AND FROM THE PURITY WHICH REIGNS THERE,—DERIVES ITS SOLE EXISTENCE.



AWAKING from his swoon, Sadaski found himself in one of the divisions of a natural grotto. A spring took its rise at its entrance, and watered in various directions the different shrubs and plants that bedecked the enchant-

ing boundary ; Sadaski drank from its cooling and refreshing store, and thus revived and strengthened, he explored the intricate and numerous turnings of a place, which displayed the enticing simplicity of nature.

Quitting the grotto, Sadaski's sight was engaged by a variety of objects, 'till he came to a wide avenue, which led to a stately palace, forming a striking contrast to the simple beauties of the *Paradice of Shells*.

Ascending a flight of steps, Sadaski entered a grand portico. The supporting pillars were, notwithstanding

ing their vast dimension, all of them perfectly transparent. The folding doors, richly wrought, and studded with costly pearls, opened by invisible means: beyond them he beheld a double range of columns, still more beautiful than those just described. These were composed of solid gold, and bore a polish, far exceeding in clearness, that produced by the most cunning artizan.

In vain he sought a living object, but the spot of itself, had attraction sufficient to fill his mind, and call forth his admiration. A beautiful canal flowed on his right hand, fed by

innumerable water-falls, descending from rocks tinted with the richest dyes of nature, in all their chaste variety; the moving splendours of which were reflected on the pillars, and almost breathing statues with which they were intersected.

On his left, he descended on a plain. Its ever verdant surface, was covered, with every flower of every nation; of every season; and bounded by lofty trees, whose wide spread branches bowed beneath their load of delicious fruitage.

From the abundance, which tempt-

ed the touch and taste of Sadaski, he took but sparingly, and for which he failed not to praise the all bountiful, wise, and mighty Alla; although his mercies were veiled in mystery, and exceeding all mortal comprehension.

As he reclined beside the canal, musing on the changes of the afflictive past, he perceived, sporting in the tranlucent element, myriads of its glittering natives. He was held in admiration at the rapid movements and windings of the finny tribe; but nothing could equal his surprize, on beholding one of their number leap from the water, and suddenly lose

form and motion ; while, in its place, remained, the golden casket which Sadaski had secured to himself on quitting the palace of Mithranes.

Sadaski had left the casket in the enchanted tower. He surveyed it with deep attention.—He put to himself, the silent question, “ Wherefore is it placed before me ? ”—Instantly it glared with a brightness which dazzled the sight of its late possessor. The lid started from its hinges ; a bright and lambent flame issued from it, which spreading by degrees, at length formed a circle of a brilliancy

so powerful, as to dazzle the sight of its beholder.

Without losing its radiant effect, it became softened to his wondering gaze; while, in the midst, appeared the same beautiful and benignant form, that had before impressed him with so much awe and admiration; and from whom he had received a lesson, which he was but too conscious he had not duly attended to.

“Sadaski,” said the genius, “thou art now a wanderer in the regions of enchantment; where, every incident,

and every scene, which may pass before thy mental and corporeal view, is meant for thy instruction; and where thou wilt behold the votaries of false and fatal pleasure, drooping amidst their hoards of wealth, and sinking to disease and death, by the improper indulgence of those senses, which are allied only to vice, and which end in infamy and dishonour.

“ Here, in fond mistake, the folly of the living, prolong, by monumental foppery, the memory of the departed; whose ashes are now, mouldering, and blending, with the dust from whence they sprung.

“In the TEMPLE OF STATUES, the sculptured memorial is raised to record those names which have been disgraced and sullied during the existence of their owners.—From those memorials, many a beholder turns with silent execration ; and, with the indignant blush, still glowing on the cheek, recalls the private wrong, festering in the heart, from whence every joy, arising from domestic comfort, has been rudely torn by the lawless despot, who had passed his days in licentious dissipation, and who had established his privilege, on his power.

“ Numerous edifices are here raised for public purposes, the magnificence of which is sure to arrest the eye of strangers; who finding so many of them devoted to the enticements of pleasure, are thereby induced to prolong their stay, and to leave behind them a portion of the wealth of other nations.

In its turn, the TEMPLE OF STATUES will be visited by Sadaski. There he will behold the concourse which assemble daily, to descant on its pompous monuments. He will view parties, formed around the last erected wonder, imparting to each

other, in stolen and timid whispers, their private sentiments of the character it is intended to perpetuate. He will see them point, with sarcastic glance toward the TABLET, as if they would say—‘Behold its false and servile inscription; behold the work of the abject and the needy; and the scorn and ridicule of the liberal and the independant.’

“The light, and no less transient visions of the golden realm, will pass before thee, in all their seeming fair, but fallacious variety. Do thou observe their progress and their end, and thou wilt soon become sensible

that domestic and sacred ties are profaned in the public circle, and violated in the secret haunt; for here, my charge, every object incites to thoughts unholy, and to deeds detestable.

“The view of the golden casket, which contained the riches of dishonour, may once more lead thee to reflect on the days of industry and of contentment; on those happy and peaceful days, when no such shadowy baubles were held requisite to enhance that felicity, which flowed from the heart, and from thence de-

rived its existence, its support, and its purity.

“ In the confines of DESPAIR, from whence the great Alla, all good, and all forgiving has now relieved thee, thou hast, by his powerful aid, surmounted varied and afflicting trials:—and, O, Sadaski! thou hast escaped the commission of a crime of the deepest dye, and against which the doors of mercy are closed for ever.

“ Alas! guilty, weak, and short sighted worm of earth! arraign no more the eternal justice of thy

God.—Ungrateful as thou art, in those trials thou hast presumed to imagine thy punishment exceeded thine offence.

“In Sadaski’s partial scale, indeed, that offence appeared as light and trivial; but the all pervading eye of him, who beholds from his exalted and eternal throne, the actions of his creatures, can never be deceived.—At his fiat, was raised the unerring balance of heaven; therein was weighed thy every thought, and thy every action; and the sum of thy misdeeds, was found sufficient to condemn thee to sufferings, far Sadaski,

far exceeding any thou hast hitherto endured.

“ When the abodes of earthly splendour, became, in thine altered eye, desirable; when Orantes called thee to the palace of Mithranes; the affections of Emira became less and less ardent towards the husband of her earliest love, as every passing day, she listened with encreasing vanity and satisfaction, to the destructive lore of persuasive adulation.

“ This change in thy Emira, in Emira, so lately thy choicest blessing, passed by thee unheeded.—Blinded

as thou wert to every thing dear to that peace, which had, 'till a period so fatal, uniformly accompanied thy blameless life; and misled and dazzled by the glittering and delusive present, the fair ones of the palace engaged thy glowing imagination; filled up thy every thought, and led thee, unhappy and degraded man, from the comforts of integrity and of virtue, and from all that innate honour must ever hold sacred.

“Has Sadaski forgotten his unhallowed passion for the abandoned Selima! has he forgotten, that to heighten his offence, and to

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enhance his misery, that artful, and dangerous circle, was singled out, from the train of Mithranes, for stolen, and illicit enjoyment? Alas deep compunction and conscious shame, must long remain the inmates of thy bosom, before the smallest portion of its banished peace can return to cheer it.

“Remember, Sadaski, that Mithranes was then supposed thy patron and thy friend. It is true, that Selima proved averse to the wishes of him, who had purchased her for his pleasures. Still what right hadst thou

to solicit her smiles; meanly to wrong
thine apparent benefactor, and to
insult Emira.

“ But manifold as his offences have
proved, Sadaski may still look up.
—Although, in the contemplation of
another’s crime, he has thus been lost
to the magnitude of his own; al-
though by turns, he has submitted to
become the willing slave of lust, of
revenge, and of ambition:—still is
Alla inclined to mercy and forgive-
ness.

“ Thy way to the hall of audience,
lies through yonder labyrinth.—

When, amidst its entangled, but spacious paths, thine ear, thine eye, or thy senses, shall be powerfully attracted; recollect my present caution; recollect that the Realm of Gold, and the Realm of Perdition, are the same.

“Temptations varied, and insinuating, will beset thee on every side—those temptations will require all thy fortitude stedfastly to resist:—suffer not thy passions to involve thee in irremediable ruin; and to avoid future evils, remember those that are past.

“Forget not thy native abode, and

reflect that a short, a very short term of splendid dissipation and suspense from rational and active duty, has been sufficient to overturn thy happiness, and to plunge thee into misery.

“ The gay and voluptuous inhabitants of this realm of ruin, are, with but few exceptions, victims to their own wealth. Inactive, vain, arrogant, and unfeeling, the real miseries of life are removed far from their view:—but fancy, ever busy with her light and fickle votaries, conjures up at every turn, her train of visionary wants and evils to torment the self-lover,

the vindictive and the proud, who here, un blessing and un blessed, and wanting every incitement to virtue, become the dupes of *false* sentiment; but, the sigh they utter is an alien to the bosom, and the tear they shed, is disowned by genuine pity."

The lesson of his monitor was taken to the heart of Sadaski, who bowing himself to the earth, remained some time in a posture of adoration—but when he arose, he beheld the genius no more.

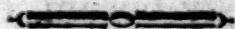
The casket still remained, which he surveyed, not unmindful of the

recent warning; and, as if it had retained its shape, still more to impress that warning on his heart; when Sadaski sighed, it reassumed its animated and original form of the golden fish, which, darting to its native element, was soon lost amidst myriads of its sportive and resplendent tribe.



CHAP. VII.

THE SNARES OF FALSEHOOD, ARE AS VAPOURS
BEFORE PROSPERITY AND WEALTH.—CHANGE
BUT THE SCENE, AND TRUTH ENLIGHTENS THE
DISTANCE.



SADASKI now turned his steps
toward the labyrinth, where every
tree seemed as if composed of varie-
gated gold.

Along the verdant paths they
adorned and shaded, the water per-

sued its devious course; its banks crowned with verdure of a thousand dyes; its bed bestrewed with every gem that glitters to the sun.

As it rolled onward in gentle undulations, rich beams of light swept across the enchanting scenery, and gave its glossy bosom to glow with the most brilliant tints of orange and of purple.

The path Sadaski trod had many windings, and at every turn, nature displayed a new picture. As he advanced, the canal increased in width, while its depth became more and

more profound, as it rolled in echoing murmur through the lofty arches of a stately bridge composed of porphyry and alabaster, and relieved by ornaments, the materials of which had been taken from the ore of the Realm.

Imagination, in its grandest flight, could not form a more bold and striking object. The elegance of its architecture, and the highly wrought and picturesque embellishments, displayed the sentiment and taste which formed them, and fixed their situation.

Interesting designs from the hand of the sculptor were placed between every arch; curious and secret springs gave motion to their breathing statues; and where the subject was expressive of the delights of harmony, it arose by magic means, from the lips of the imaged nymph, for whom the choral lay had been attended by the cunning and matchless artist.

The hills and dales resounded with the enchanting strains proceeding from this pile of wonders. At intervals, figures, bending in majestic and graceful attitudes over the liquid surface, cast upon it clusters of sparkling

WANDERING PENITENT. III

gems, which, as they sunk beneath the transparent wave, created a vibration, which increased and assisted the general melody.

The summit of the bridge displayed a boundless prospect. Sadaski, for a time, became rivetted to the spot, which on either side, presented a scene, far exceeding in diversity and grandeur, any he had yet beheld; but although every object was calculated to raise the most rapturous sensations, —still the heart of Sadaski reverted with a sigh to the more secluded and milder charms which marked his

native vale of innocence and felicity.

The captivating and luxuriant landscape which had burst, at once, upon his view, and which, as he beheld it from the height on which he stood, had filled his mind with admiration, was soon lost in the reflections it had conjured up. Those reflections were not to be checked, their irresistible influence dissolved the charm, and he descended, meditating on the days that were past, while all the shadows of their eventful history, arose to tortured memory, and once more reminded him of that peace which had

abdicated its seat in the bosom, once cheered with its nameless and transcendant blessings.

Thus wrapped in painful meditations, Sadaski remained lost to every thing around him, 'till the loud and resounding clamour of rushing waters, which fell over a rocky and threatening precipice on either side, induced him to look to his path, which beset with dangers, and shaken by the subtle and foaming course of its innovating neighbours, presented the instant peril of his situation.

While preparing for his descent, since to return appeared impracticable, and while intent upon avoiding its threatening horrors, he felt his hand gently pressed by one of exquisite softness; and, turning aside, he beheld a youthful nymph, of a form and countenance the most alluring.

The lovely stranger led Sadaski to the brink of the precipice, from whence, for a vast extent, he contemplated the descending torrent. Its thundering course was rendered still more terrific from its being checked by millions of breakers; whose spiral heads appeared above the silvery foam,

which passed them in rapid and continued whirl; while the violence of their motion, forced from innumerable beds, their treasures of silver, gold, and pearl; which, mixing with the spray, and catching the glowing sunbeam, rendered their ever-moving glories doubly resplendent: nor could the utmost stretch of human imagination, form a picture more sublime, singular, or romantic.

In the magnificent and broad survey beneath him, Sadaski beheld a sumptuous mansion, the extensive front of which was too dazzling, long to contemplate with safety, from the

precarious and elevated station he held; and which, but for the support of his guide, he could not, even for a moment, have retained.

“By those less favoured than thyself,” said the nymph, “the abode of the mighty sovereign of these realms can only be gained with care, pain, and hazard. Were the many who seek his courts, to find an easy passage, those delights, which, to its possessor, gold alone can bestow, would be less enjoyed.

“The lustre of yonder palace overpowers the sight; the while it renders

the head giddy, and the step uncertain. Unaware of the covert ruin, thousands have been dashed to atoms upon those glittering breakers, even in the moment of that admiration they have attracted.

“From the gallery on which we stand, and which, lashed by the beating wave, trembles beneath our feet, behold a flight of Golden Steps: the attempt to number them has only proved the weakness of those who have had the temerity to form it.

“I perceive thou lookest aghast, and that apprehension, seizes thy

trembling frame, but fear nothing: although their foundation is placed far beyond thy ken, although the many coloured clouds beneath appear as their resting place; still sustained by me, thou wilt soon be at the entrance of that vast portal, which swells upon the sight, and which opens to the Hall of Audience."

Yielding to the guidance of his fair companion, the amazed Sadaski descended the steps with rapidity and safety, and was already on the plain before the palace, when, turning round to behold the perils he had past;—the Golden Steps,—the foaming fall, and,

—the treacherous breakers.—With all the wild, and the romantic scenery, they distinguished and adorned, were vanished from his view!

The sportive and captivating female, smiling at Sadaski's visible astonishment, said—"And has my charge still to learn, that when subdued the giant, Difficulty dwindles to a shade?"

But the bewildered traveller had still remained, trembling and aghast, at the immense and awful distance which appeared between the portal in his view, and the summit of the Golden Steps, if the richness of his dress

(which though rent and faded in the confines of despair, was suddenly restored as he passed the labyrinth) had not deceived his beauteous guide, who was one, among the numerous agents of an abject court, and who, from his appearance, mistook him for some illustrious stranger.

Sadaski was indeed in the Realm of GOLD; but his casket was gone, which alone contained the current specie of the land he had deserted. Divested of that store, the means was lost of attaining, by exchange, the smallest portion of that in which he now found himself, and which, from the ore of

the Realm, was mouldered into circular forms, and impressed with the image of the reigning monarch.



On entering the hall, Szadski, held, surrounded by a train of courtiers, the sovereign of the Golden Realm. He was seated beneath an awning of purple velvet, curiously wrought with silver and with gold, and

C H A P. VIII.

BEAUTY, UNALLIED TO VIRTUE, CAN ONLY
CAPTIVATE THE SENSUALIST; AND HOLD IN
DISGRACEFUL BONDAGE THE WEAK OF MIND.



ON entering the hall, Sadaski beheld, surrounded by a train of courtiers, the sovereign of the GOLDEN REALM.

He was seated beneath an awning of purple velvet, curiously wrought with silver and with gold, and bor-

dored with festoons of silken fringe, interwoven with artificial flowers, which were still farther enriched with pearl and other materials equally valuable and attractive.

The diadem which encircled his brow, glittered with gems of uncommon size, lustre, and purity; and the sceptre which he held was no less costly, superb, and resplendent.

As a stranger, and, to appearance, of rank, Sadaski was honoured with immediate notice; and from the monarch, down to the lowest in attendance about his person; the welcome

he experienced would have gratified the feelings of the proudest heart—but Sadaski had been humbled even to the dust, by the very means now employed, again to seduce him from himself—his sorrows had taught him the lesson of humility; and the splendours he beheld, only served to impress his mind more deeply with a sense of former errors; and he took more closely to his bosom the words of his protecting genius.—“To avoid future evils, remember those that are past.”

An assemblage of the softer sex, of form the most attractive, and of beau-

ty the most alluring, were reclining in sofas placed in elegant retreats, inlaid with mirrors, and adorned with artificial trees, flowers, and shrubbery.

The honours of introduction passed, Sadaski was invited by the king to a seat provided for him beneath the royal canopy.

From thence he took an ample survey of every resplendent object around him; and the monarch appeared to experience an inward gratification, in thus witnessing the stranger's attention

to every sumptuous display of the wealth of the Realm.

The enthroned despot at length commanded THE CUP OF WELCOME. During the flattering ceremony, Sadaski arose from his seat; bowed to the monarch and the assembly; and thus, in expressive silence, appeared to evince his gratitude for the distinctions paid him.

The royal bards now passed the throne, and after a few movements, formed a crescent before it. The choral virgins, selected for uniformity of stature and resemblance, next pre-

sented themselves : as they advanced, confused and rapturous murmurs burst forth, and every countenance confessed the general admiration their appearance had created.

The eldest of the train had not yet entered on her fifteenth summer ; and Sadaski learned, in a whisper from one of the attendant nymphs reclining near him, that on attaining that age their appointment ceased.

Sadaski observed, that notwithstanding their extreme youth, the semblance of innocence could no where be traced amidst the fascinating

charms of opening beauty. The nymph, to whom the remark was made, glared ineffable contempt on Sadaski ; and, turning to her companions, regardless of the august presence, laughed aloud at the stranger-moralist.

Two of these lovely, but devoted inmates of a court, immersed in pride and sensuality, led the principal bard to an eminence, raised, and adorned for the occasion ; and there, remaining by his side, joined their interesting and harmonious voices with his, in chaunting the abject and lying strain of shameful and unblushing adulation ;

which attributed to the sovereign, virtues he never possessed, and which raised him, in the artificial warmth of bribed and bloated imagination—even to a God!

Sadaski, unwilling again to subject himself to the taunts of those near him, endeavoured to look the satisfaction he felt not.

While thus employed in the task of warrantable duplicity, the monarch announced, by his heralds, his departure for his private chambers; but previous to his quitting the Hall of Audience, he thus addressed the

stranger he had so peculiarly honoured.

“Welcome, much favoured mortal, to the delights of my domain; where thou mayest bask in uninterrupted ease; and where no wants, which the passions create, as they sport at will, with the yielding and enchanted mind, are for a moment experienced.

“Cast then every care aside; forgive the mirth which arose from thy untimely utterance of the frigid dictates of a less distinguished clime, and prepare for a new existence.—Henceforth, happy stranger, new raptures

shall swell thy bosom—and new and
enchanting scenes glitter in thine eye.

In this joyous realm, the cup of pleasure,
never emptied, ever filling,
shall exhilarate every power, of every
sense, and convey thee, cheered by
its all pervading influence, even beyond
mortality.

“I now retire to my own enjoyments,
which are varied, and without a pause.
—Without question, or restraint do
thou also consult inclination, and pursue
its course. I leave thee hemmed in
with unutterable delights; in the midst
of yielding and bewitching beauty;
in whose enfolding arms, how blissful,

to revel out the hours, from sun to sun; and experience the secret raptures of intoxicating love."

As the king retired from the hall, he bowed to the splendid croud on either side; while its ample space resounded with a chorus to his honour; and which, with variations, was repeated, till he was out of sight, and reposing in his secluded chambers.



CHAP. IX.

FAIR, BUT SPECIOUS, ARE THE PATHS OF DELUSIVE VICE.—THERE EVERY OBJECT TENDS TO SUBVERT THE MIND, SULLY ITS PURITY, WEAKEN ITS NOBLER ENERGIES; AND DESTROY ITS PEACE!—THERE, LAY IN DREAD CONCEALMENT, THE BARBED ARROWS OF INSATIATE DEATH; AND SPED IN THE MOMENT OF FALSE SECURITY, MANY FALL THEIR VICTIMS.



The voluptuary in his gayest moments, and in the utmost fervor of imagination, could not picture a scene more fascinating to the senses than

that which succeeded the absence of the king—in the Hall of Audience.

But with Sadaski, its allurements only served to nurse his latent and rooted grief. They reminded him, but too forcibly, of the pavilions in the groves of Mithranes; and of the nocturnal, and detested revelry in the subterranean recess.—He becomes absorbed in mournful misery; nor could the united charms of present joy, which stilled, for its time, other griefs, in other breasts, diversify him from those, which were fated to engloom his path in all its windings, and which

had been recorded by a rooted grief on memory's unfading tablet.

A sudden burst of laughter, occasioned him to quit the posture in which he appeared fixed by intense thought.

His eyes, still, heavy, and moistened by the pensive tears which had fallen from them, were now again raised; and he discovered that the gay assemblage which but late surrounded him, were removed to a distance.

The merriment, so loudly proclaimed as to awake him from his

reverie, arose from the look and gesture of a fantastic groupe, whose grotesque action and demeanor, assisted by various sallies of humour, were calculated to provoke the laughter of the brilliant and thoughtless multitude that thronged around them.

Among the crowd, Sadaski beheld a youth, whose brow was crimsoned with the fumes of intemperance. This devotee to pleasure and dissipation, was surrounded by the nymphs of the palace whose unblushing mien, and unembarrassed manner, declared their yielding nature.

Sadaski's gaze at length arrested that of the object on which it was fixed; who, rising from his couch, on which he had been seated, and assuming a careless air, advanced, with steps, which marked his inebriated state, to the stranger to his nation; and raising his lips to the rim of the brim-full goblet in his grasp, swallowed, with savage eagerness, the full measure of its baneful contents.

Flushed with the inordinate draught, and reeling beneath its subtle and certain influence, he thus pronounced the sentiments, prompted by vice, and adopted by folly.

Drown the whimsies of the soul,
In the juice that fills the bowl :
Woudest thou banish mortal pain,
Press the yielding nymph again.
Why should little fears confound ?
All but *endless* joys surround.
When fantastic doubts arise,
This way, mortal, turn thine eyes.
Early morn and close of day,
Find us full of sport and play.
Long shall we pursue our joys,
Ere the scare-crow Time destroys.
Long shall trip it hand in hand,
Ere we join the aged band.
Long our lot of life will prove,
Cheer'd by wine, and crown'd with love.

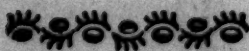
The symphonious accompaniment
had scarcely ceased its vibration,
when the lips which had given utter-
ance to the voluptuous strain, quiver'd
with convulsive agonies; the while,
this devotee to pernicious pleasure,

whose reason, health, and honour had been sacrificed at the mighty orgies of flattering and destructive vice, reeled to a couch within a few paces from him, and instantly sunk into a state of insensibility, from whence he was never more awakened.

The party who had joined him in his recent excesses, took no farther notice of this sudden deprivation of every active power, than to command the instant removal of the late companion and head of their boisterous raptures.

Turning from the spot; and, as it

were, instinctively, the joyous and unthinking train left the attendants to the performance of their melancholy office. As they conveyed away the pale and lifeless corse, Sadaski sighed, as he reflected on a change, so awful and so sudden; and, with conscious terror, shrunk at the effect of unbounded passion, which he beheld so mournfully exemplified in the late exulting, tho' now silent witness of Alla's power to punish.

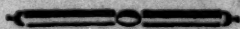


CHAP. X.

THE JOYS OF VICE, TERMINATE IN MISERY:—

THE SORROWS OF VIRTUE, IN GLADNESS.—

DEGRADING TO HUMANITY, ARE THE PUR-
SUITS OF FOLLY.



THE attendants having left the hall to prepare a distant apartment for the present reception of the body, Sadaski removed the mantle from the altered countenance, and exclaimed with a sigh, “And art thou, poor pallid corse, all that remains of him who

so lately exulted in the maddening career of libertine delight?—Were those orbs, now sunk within their clay-cold sockets, but lately glaring with wild rapture, and rolling in frantic survey, from nymph to nymph, as with studied allurements they thronged around and courted attention?—Were those the lips, so recently employed in the vaunting strain of prostituted talent, which held forth the false and flattering promise of an uninterrupted bliss? even till the far distant period of declining age?—Alas! the days of thy existence have been few in number; and ere the grave receives thy

thee, thy memory is wiped away from remembrance.

“Doomed to wander, in paths perplexed and painful! thus, Sadaski, thus also, shalt thou fall, unmarked, and unmourned.

“Life, embittered with sorrow, and destitute of hope, may in some inhospitable solitude, quit thy drooping frame.—There it may remain neglected as the moss-clad column, which the desolating blast has levelled to the earth, in the ruin of the dreary waste.”

On the return of the attendants, Sadaski removed to a distance; the object of his contemplation was borne away in expressive silence, and he was again left to ruminate over the sum of his afflictions.

The numerous lustres which had diffused their radiance, even to the remotest corners of this vast and intricate building, were now suddenly extinguished; while the expiring flames of the few lamps, still glimmering in their distant stations, served but to increase the solemnity of the gloom.

The quick transition from a full blaze of light, to almost total darkness, occasioned Sadaski to look around him. The vaulted recesses, which had hitherto shone so resplendent, appeared dark and terrific; every step he took, echoed throughout the ample space; and his heart recoiled with dismay at the sight of certain forms, of a description the most alarming, engaged in rendering every object still more obscure and doubtful, by lessening the number of the few remaining lights.

Some of the lamps were placed at an immense height; and each of

these demons in appearance, was furnished with a long tube, which conveyed the breath to the flame it thus extinguished.

Sadaski arose to retire from the hall, when he was discovered by two of the ghastly tribe as they were passing along the gallery.—The remembrance of his mental and bodily tortures in the cavern, caused him to shrink from their presence and their gaze.

And now, still more to heighten his dismay, one of these phantoms called to his companions, who in-

stantly joined him; while Sadaski, unable any longer to bear up, against the general survey of a groupe so truly formidable, sunk down on a sofa, and with difficulty preserved himself from falling into a swoon.

He was at length, considerably relieved, by hearing one of them say, in a mild and pleasing accent, "It is the stranger—the insensible stranger!"

Sadaski, on hearing a human voice, ventured to enquire into the cause of the sudden change just produced, and received for answer; that the company had repaired to the garden:

alcoves; and that, when he and his fellows had prepared the several chambers leading from the hall, for the reception of those who might wish to remove thither, with a consenting partner; and had spread the perfumed carpets in the hall itself; the music would commence, and serve as a signal for the opening of the expansive doors at the termination of the range of pillars which supported the galleries.

The courtesy of the being, who thus addressed Sadaski was such, that it tended considerably to dispel his apprehensions; and which en-

tirely subsided, on his receiving the welcome information, that all the attendants of the hall had received orders, not to relinquish their MASKS till they were commanded by their superiors.

The attendant added, that the hall would soon be prepared for such of the company who might chuse to return to it, provided they assumed habits and characters, foreign to themselves, and which they were expected to support with spirit and satire; or suffer the ridicule and disgrace which must succeed an attempt beyond the limits of their wit and abilities.

The attendant finished his explanation by removing his vizor—his companions followed his example, observing at the same time, that they were acting contrary to command; and in this state they retired, making their obedience as they severally passed the stranger, Sadaski; and repeating, that the musicians would instantly take their seats, and the signal be given—but that as Sadaski was not provided with a proper habit, they would advise him, when the doors opened, to repair to the lawn, where he would find, if not the same delights, others that would at least equal those he left behind him.

CHAP. XI.

UNCHECKED BY THE TERRORS OF EXAMPLE, AND
REGARDLESS OF THE WARNING VOICE OF
EXPERIENCE, THE FOOL STILL REMAINS ON
THE QUICK-SANDS OF PERDITION.

ON the departure of the attendants,
Sadaski repaired to a spot from
whence he could, unobserved, behold
that part of the company as they
entered, who were to support and
enliven, what to him appeared so
frivolous an amusement.

He had but just taken his post of observation, when the music commenced; and amidst a confused murmur, the doors instantly expanded, and admitted the motley crew.

Sadaski viewed with mingled pity and contempt, so vast an assemblage of beings bearing his own form, employed in the most degrading display of unpardonable mummery, and strange conceit; while those who gave the most glaring traits of extravagance and folly, were considered with admiration, and loaded with applause.

The doors of the hall remained

open till every visitor had entered, and then they closed on Sadaski, as he sought the avenue which led to the gardens.

On every side he beheld a variety of alcoves. Their construction was simple and elegant, and inclosed as they were amidst flowers and variegated shrubbery, they presented an air of privacy, tending to heighten licentious raptures, and give a stronger zest to illicit enjoyment.

SADASKI continued wandering through the different glades and alleys, while the moon, diffused

chaste radiance over every object; nor, even for a moment did a passing cloud diminish its mild and enchanting lustre.

As Sadaski advanced, the voice of revelry resounded from the alcoves, which as the scenery became less secluded, were placed at a greater distance from each other.

At length he entered upon a luxuriant and expansive valley. The bank on either side receded gradually from the view; and the lofty pine, that graced their summits, protected the

flowering shrub, that flourished beneath its shade.

Having passed the valley, which terminated in a wild and beautiful retreat, Sadaski threw himself on a bank, and had fallen into a slumber; when he was awakened by a rustling amidst the thickets, which nearly enclosed the natural and inviting bed on which he had reclined, in the hope of sinking for a season into a state of forgetfulness; or perhaps indulging in the visionary dream of restored tranquillity.

The moon-beam was but just ad-

mitted through the abundant foliage of this secluded harbour;—the sound which had excited alarm increased;—it seemed to proceed from the movement of some inmate of the surrounding shrubbery:—Sadaski started from the verdure he had pressed in imagined security; on the instant, he beheld an enormous snake plunge amidst a bed of flowers; its glossy scales, resembled in colour the luxuriant grass, through which the creature had advanced.—For a considerable space, it lay unseen in its fragrant station, but, from thence, announced its hostile intent by repeated hissings. At length, as if rendered more malig-

nant by discovery, it raised its speckled crest, which glistened to the partial ray, and darted with sudden fury, on its intended victim, who, defending himself with his scymitar, quickly destroyed the envenomed and enraged reptile.

Leaving the still panting remains of his subdued enemy, Sadaski, in silent praises to the protecting power, pursued his way. The gay assemblage was left far behind; not a pavillion was to be seen; the valley became more and more contracted, the shadows of the waving tenants of the silent path on which he had

entered met each other; and the path itself terminated in a range of mountains; the terrific aspect of which forbade farther progress.

The awful effect of a scene, so different in character from those he had left, was increased by the sudden contrast. The roaring of the dashing wave, which beat against the marble base of the insensate rock, resounded through the arched way which Sadaski was tempted to explore. He had not proceeded far, before he came to a spacious cavern, where he rested to recover strength for his return to

the grove of fruits, where he might satisfy his hunger; and to the translucent spring, where he might allay his thirst.

He was just preparing to quit the chamber of the rocks, when he heard his name audibly pronounced; but the call was so mild, so sweetly harmonious, that surprise and admiration, detained him on the spot; and he seemed far more inclined to obey the impulse of curiosity, than to yield to the demands of nature.

The voice again repeated his name, and Sadaski, turning to the rugged

termination of the cavern, from whence it seemed to proceed, a division was removed by some mechanical power, and discovered an illuminated passage:—A youthful and engaging female appeared at its entrance. With inimitable grace she waved a silver wand; Sadaski obeyed the summons, and as he entered the passage, the division closed.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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